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Globalization and interdependence: international migration and development

Organization of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

United Nations Headquarters, 14 and 15 September 2006

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/208 of 23 December 2003, decided to devote a high-level dialogue to international migration and development in 2006 during its sixty-first session, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Assembly, with modalities to be decided upon. In the same resolution it requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the organizational details of the High-level Dialogue. This request was reconfirmed by the Assembly in its resolution 59/241 of 22 December 2004.

2. At its sixtieth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/227 of 23 December 2005, decided to convene the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006 to discuss the overall theme of the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development in order to identify appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts.

3. In the same resolution the General Assembly decided that the High-level Dialogue would consist of four plenary meetings and four interactive round tables, within existing resources. It further decided on the organization and themes for the four round tables.

4. Recognizing the importance of the contribution of civil society in the preparatory process of the High-level Dialogue, the General Assembly decided to hold, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

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5. The General Assembly invited the President of the General Assembly, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States, and with the assistance of the Secretariat, to organize prior to the High-level Dialogue up to two panel discussions with a focus on its overall theme.

6. The General Assembly also invited relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the International Organization for Migration, to contribute to the preparation of the High-level Dialogue.

7. The General Assembly further invited the regional commissions to contribute to and coordinate dialogue at the regional level in preparation for the High-level Dialogue, and also invited appropriate regional consultative processes and other major initiatives undertaken by Member States in the field of international migration to contribute to the High-level Dialogue.

8. The General Assembly reiterated that the outcome of the High-level Dialogue would be a Chairperson's summary, which would be widely distributed to Member States, observers, United Nations agencies and other appropriate organizations.

9. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a note on the organization of work of the High-level Dialogue. The present note is in response to that request.

II. Organizational arrangements

A. Plenary meetings

10. The High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development will consist of four plenary meetings, as follows:

Thursday, 14 September 2006, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, 15 September 2006, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

11. Introductory statements will be made by the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Secretary-General at the opening of the plenary meeting on Thursday morning, 14 September.

12. The High-level Dialogue will be open to the participation of Member States, which are invited to participate at the ministerial or highest level possible; the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer; the International Organization for Migration, as well as other intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. Participation will be in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

13. In order to accommodate all the speakers, statements will be limited to four minutes, on the understanding that that would not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts.

14. Summaries of the deliberations of the four round tables will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round tables at the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue (see also para. 24).

B. Interactive round tables

15. The High-level Dialogue will hold four interactive round tables, as follows:

Thursday, 14 September 2006, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Round table 1: Effects of international migration on economic and social development.

Round table 2: Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, and to prevent and combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons.

Friday, 15 September 2006, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Round table 3: Multidimensional aspects of international migration and development, including remittances.

Round table 4: Promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

16. The four round tables will have 40 to 48 seats each for heads of delegation and other participants in the round tables. Each head of delegation attending a round table may be accompanied by one adviser.

17. All other participants in the High-level Dialogue will be able to follow the proceedings of the round tables via a closed-circuit television in the overflow rooms.

18. The chairpersons of the four round tables shall be Ministers from the African States, the Eastern European States, the Latin American and Caribbean States, and the Western European and other States. Those four chairpersons shall be selected by their respective regional groups in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

19. The composition of the four round tables will be subject to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Thus, for each regional group, the distribution of its members for participation in each round table shall be made in the following manner:

(a) African States: 11 Member States;

(b) Asian States: 11 Member States;

(c) Eastern European States: five Member States;

(d) Latin American and Caribbean States: seven Member States;

(e) Western European and other States: six Member States.

20. Each delegation will be requested to indicate its preference for one of the round tables to the chairperson of its respective regional group. Space permitting,

delegations may be able to attend more than one round table. The chairpersons of each regional group shall communicate to the President of the General Assembly which of its members wishes to participate in each round table, ensuring that equitable geographical distribution is maintained and allowing for some flexibility. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level.

21. A Member State that is not a member of any of the regional groups may participate in a round table to be determined in consultation with the President of the General Assembly. The Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, the International Organization for Migration, as well as other intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly may each participate in a round table to be determined in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

22. Each round table may accommodate up to four heads of entities of the United Nations system, determined in consultation with the President of the General Assembly.

23. Pursuant to resolution 60/227, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping having been selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue. The President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States (see also para. 36).

24. Summaries of the deliberations of the four round tables will be presented orally by the chairpersons of the round tables at the concluding plenary meeting of the High-level Dialogue (see also para. 14).

25. The round tables will be closed to the media and the general public.

C. Panel discussions

26. The panel discussions will take place as follows:

Panel discussion 1:	Thursday, 8 June 2006, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in New York
Panel discussion 2:	Tuesday, 4 July 2006, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Geneva

27. The panellists will be selected by the President of the General Assembly. They may include heads of relevant United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, as well as the International Organization for Migration.

28. The panel discussions will be open to the participation of Member States, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and other intergovernmental entities and organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly.

29. Representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector may also attend the panel discussions.

D. Informal interactive hearings

30. The one-day informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector will be held on Wednesday, 12 July 2006, and will be presided over by the President of the General Assembly.

31. The hearings will consist of two meetings. Each meeting will comprise two sequential segments and will consist of brief presentations by invited participants from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

32. Following the presentations, there will be an interactive discussion with alternate interventions from Member States and invited participants from non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector. Those intervening will be requested to identify themselves prior to their intervention and will be allowed a maximum of two minutes each to speak.

33. The meetings shall take place as follows:

Wednesday, 12 July 2006, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Segment 1: Promoting a comprehensive rights-based approach to international migration, and ensuring respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and their families.

Segment 2: International migration and development — challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries.

Wednesday, 12 July 2006, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Segment 3: International migration and development — challenges for social and economic policies in sending and receiving countries (continued).

Segment 4: Policy responses — promoting the building of partnerships and capacity-building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including the bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of countries and migrants alike.

34. The hearings will be open to the participation of accredited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, Member States and observers of the General Assembly.

35. The President of the General Assembly will determine the list of invited participants and the exact format and organization of the hearings, in consultation with Member States and representatives of non-governmental organizations in

consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector.

36. Pursuant to resolution 60/227, representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, one from each grouping having been selected during the informal interactive hearings, may also participate in each of the round tables of the High-level Dialogue. The President of the General Assembly will determine the list of such representatives, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation, in consultation with Member States (see also para. 23).

37. A summary of the hearings will be prepared by the President of the General Assembly prior to the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.